

The Sons of Rama

Vol. 503 Rs. 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

The Sons Of Rama

The story of Rama and Sita was first set down by the sage Valmiki in his epic poem *Ramayana*.

Rama was the eldest son of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya, who had three wives – Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. Rama was the son of Kaushalya, Bharata of Kaikeyi and Laxmana and Shatrughna of Sumitra. The four princes grew up to be brave and valiant. Rama won the hand of Sita, the daughter of King Janaka. Dasharatha wanted to crown Rama as the king but Kaikeyi objected. Using boons granted to her by Dasharatha earlier, she had Rama banished to the forest. Sita and Laxmana decided to follow Rama. While in the forest, a Rakshasi, Shoorpanakha, accosted Laxmana but had her nose cut off by him. In revenge, her brother Ravana, king of Lanka, carried Sita away. Rama and Laxmana set out to look for her and with the help of an army of monkeys, defeated Ravana.

On returning to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile, Rama banished Sita because of the suspicions of his subjects. In the ashrama of sage Valmiki, she gave birth to her twin sons, Luv and Kush.

Based on Uttara- Ramacharita of Bhavabhuti.

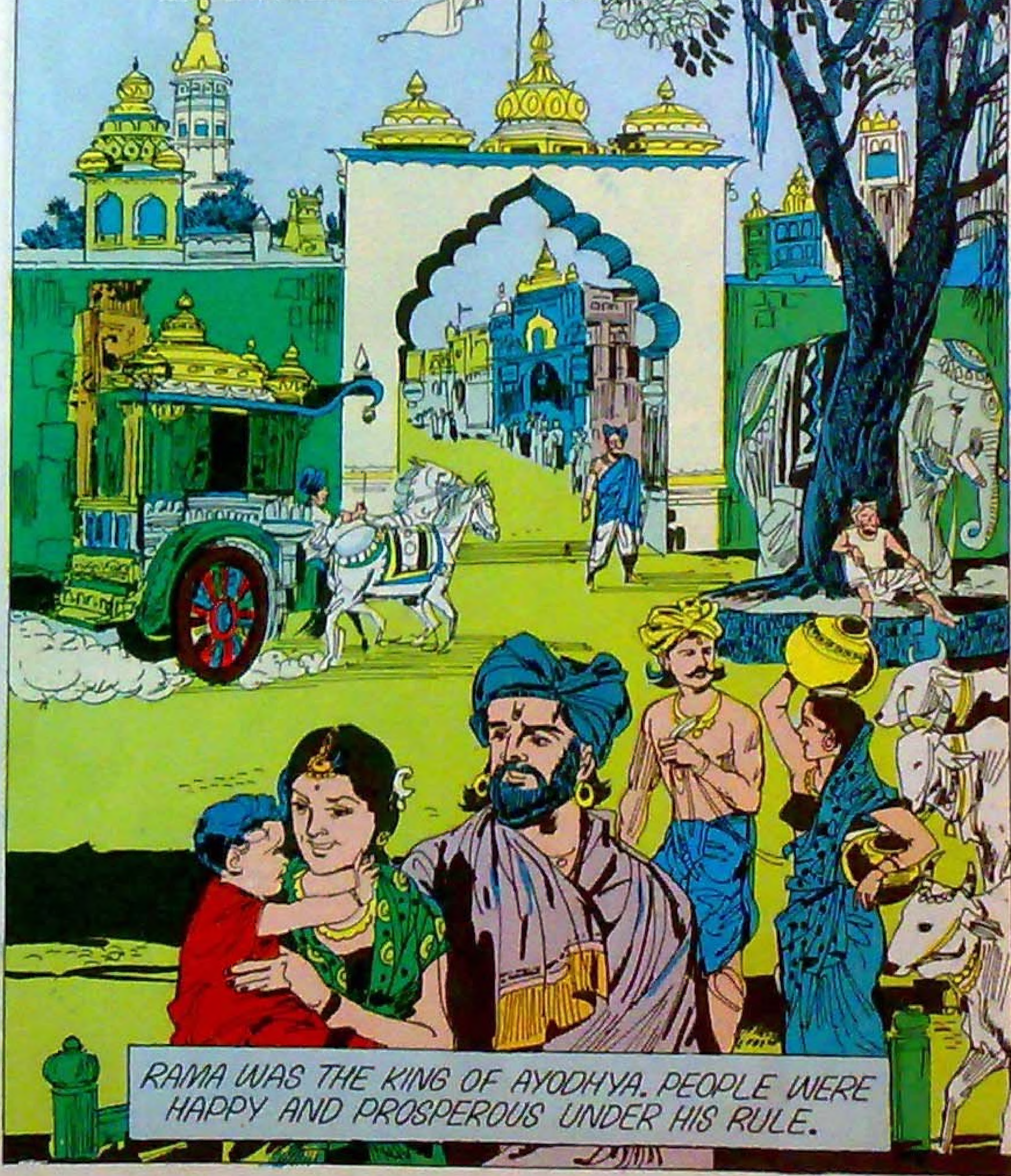


Artwork: Pratap Mulick

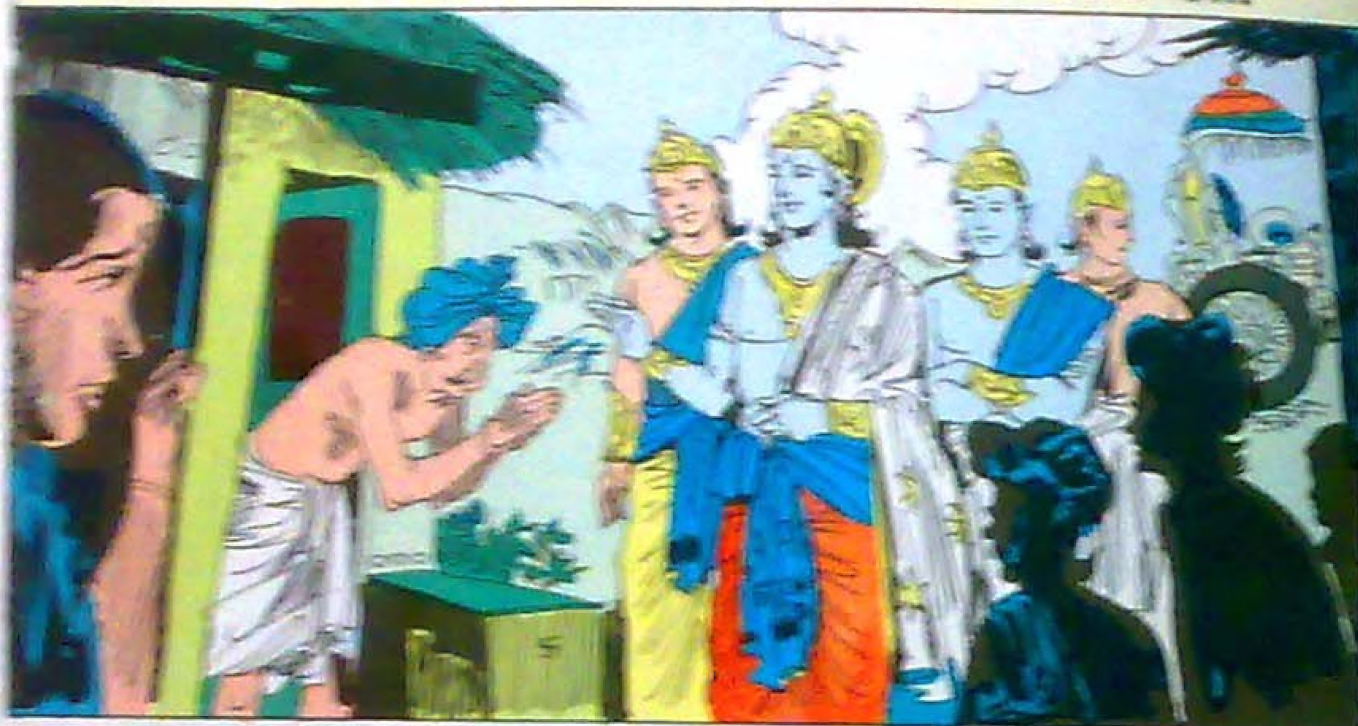
Editor : **Anant Pai**

Reprinted May, 1998. ISBN 81- 7508 - 097 - 3
Published by Anant Pai for India Book House Limited, Fleet Bldg, Mathuradas Vasanji Road, Marol Naka, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 059 and printed by him at Surabhi Printers, C- 65, Akurli Industrial Estate, Kandivli (E), Mumbai - 400 101.

THE SONS OF RAMA



WITH HIS BROTHERS, LAKSHMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA, RAMA USED TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE AND LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS...



...AND EVERY EVENING WITH HIS QUEEN SITA, HE RECEIVED HIS MEN. ONE EVENING...

SPEAK UP, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

SIRE, I CANNOT! NOT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN!


MAHARAJ, TODAY A LAUNDERER WAS BEATING HIS WIFE. AND HE SAID...


GET OUT OF MY HOUSE! I'M NOT LIKE RAMA WHO ACCEPTS A WIFE AFTER SHE HAS LIVED IN ANOTHER'S HOUSE!


SHOULD I TURN MY WIFE OUT BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LAUNDERER SAID? NO... NO... AND SHE IS SOON TO BECOME A MOTHER!


BUT MY FIRST DUTY IS TOWARDS MY PEOPLE... I HAVE TO SEND HER AWAY...



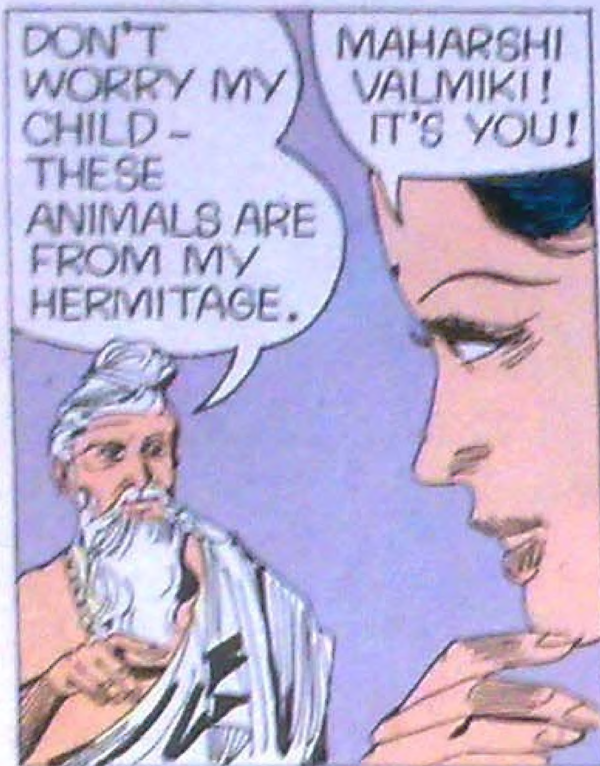


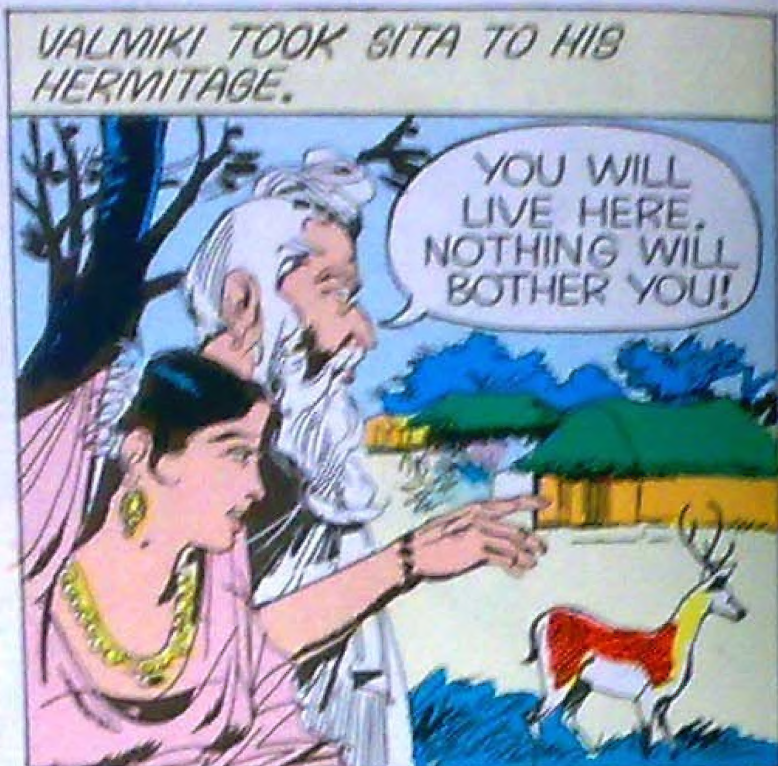
...AND LEFT AYODHYA FOR THE FOREST.


LAXMANA, THIS JUNGLE IS SO FRIGHTENING. I'M SCARED!
HOW CAN I LEAVE HER IN THIS WILD JUNGLE? BUT I MUST OBEY RAMA'S COMMAND!


AFTER LAXMANA LEFT FOR AYODHYA, SITA WAS ALONE IN THE JUNGLE.
WHERE SHALL I GO?


JUST THEN A SERPENT APPEARED.
HELP! HELP!

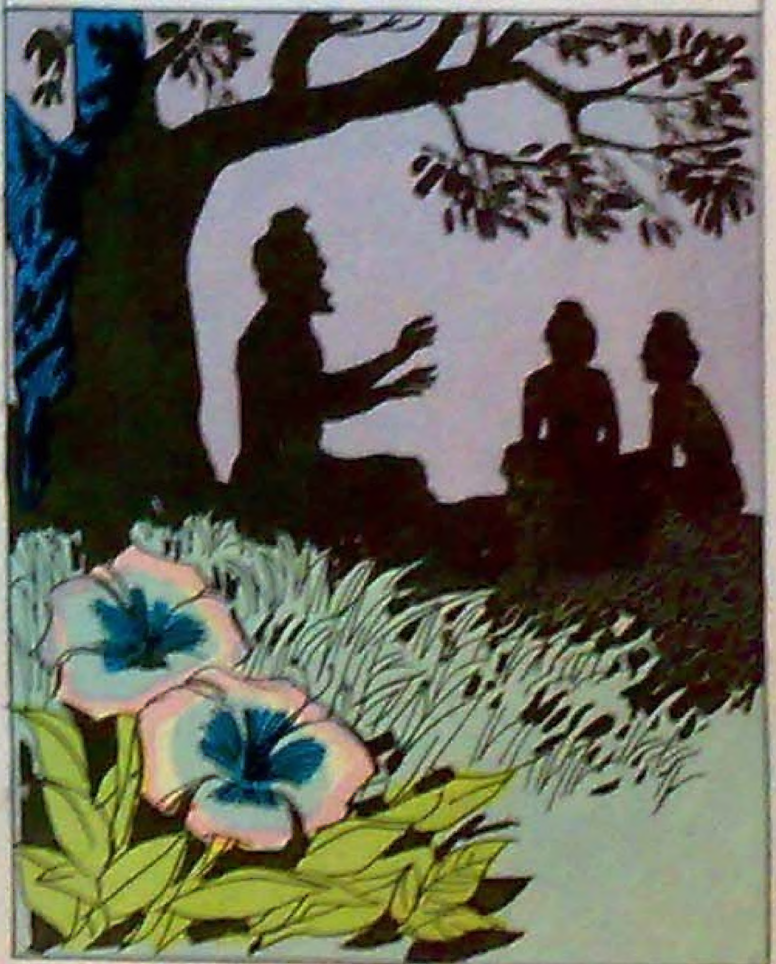




VALMIKI'S HERMITAGE BECAME SITA'S HAVEN– SHE WAS BLESSED WITH TWIN SONS.


AS TIME PASSED, SITA'S TWIN SONS, LUV AND KUSH, GREW UP.
LUV DEAR, WHERE IS KUSH?
HERE I AM, MOTHER, BOXING THIS DEER'S EARS!


BUT THE MAHARSHI TAUGHT YOU NOT TO BE CRUEL TO ANIMALS!
IT WAS THE DEER WHO WAS BEING CRUEL TO ME!


MAHARSHI VALMIKI PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO THEIR EDUCATION.

HE TAUGHT THEM THE USE OF ARMS AS WELL.

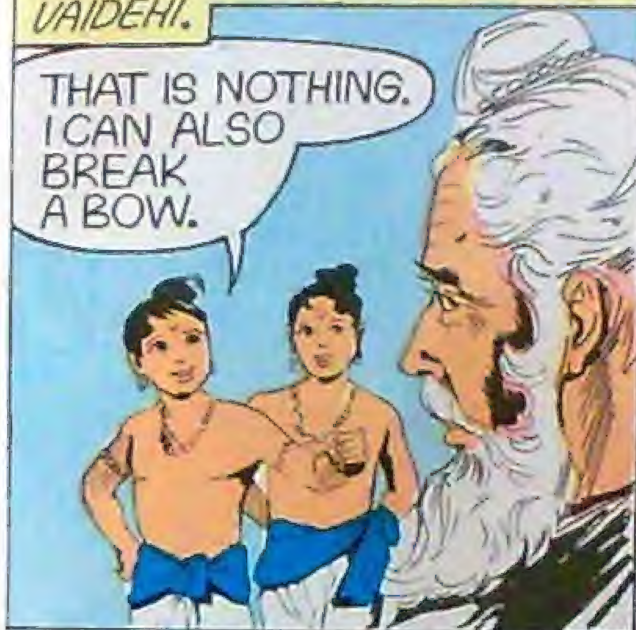
PULL WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, THEN LET THE ARROW GO.

LUV AND KUSH PRACTISED WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT EVERY DAY.

WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU TWO TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER?

LET'S GO. IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!

NOT AT ALL, MOTHER! WE ARE PRACTISING HOW TO STAY EACH OTHER'S ARROWS.

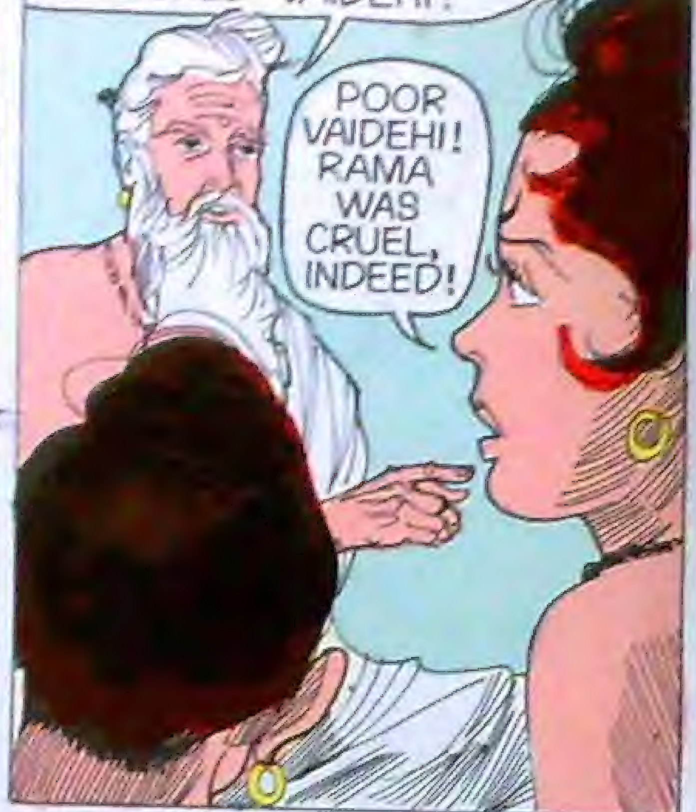

VALMIKI TOLD THEM THE STORY OF THE RAMAYANA, OF HOW RAMA BROKE THE BOW OF LORD SHIVA AND MARRIED VAIDEHI.
THAT IS NOTHING. I CAN ALSO BREAK A BOW.


" KAIKEYI BANISHED RAMA INTO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS."
I'M GOING INTO THE JUNGLES TO KEEP MY FATHER'S PROMISE!
I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!


"ONE DAY AS RAMA WENT AFTER A DEER, RAVANA KIDNAPPED VAIDEHI.


"IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAVANA WAS KILLED BY RAMA."
VICTORY TO RAMA!









THEY DID NOT REALISE THAT VAIDEHI WAS NONE OTHER THAN SITA, THEIR MOTHER.

MEANWHILE, IN AYODHYA RAMA PREPARED TO PERFORM THE ASHWAMEDHA YAJNA.

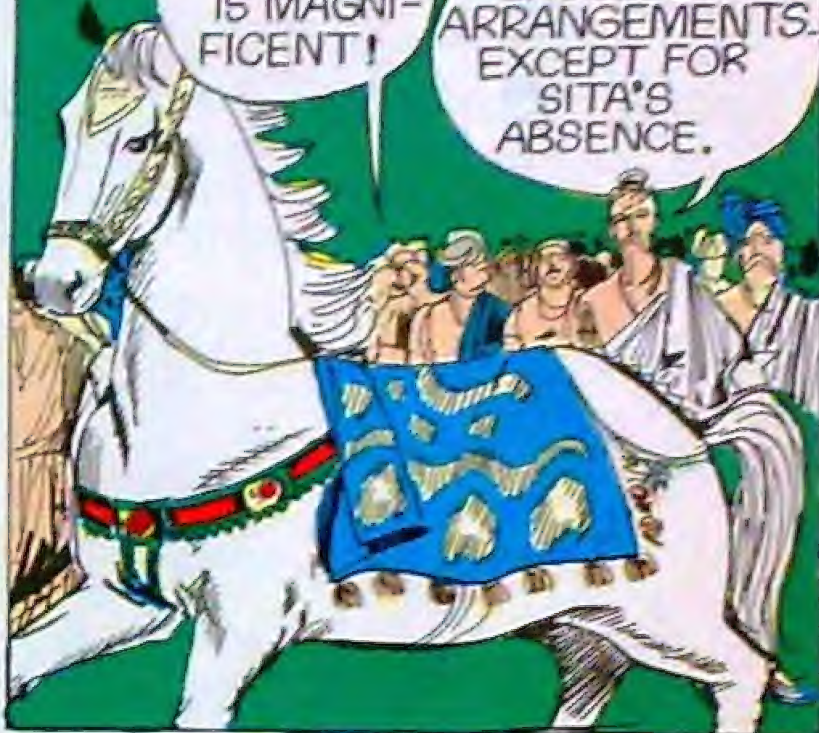




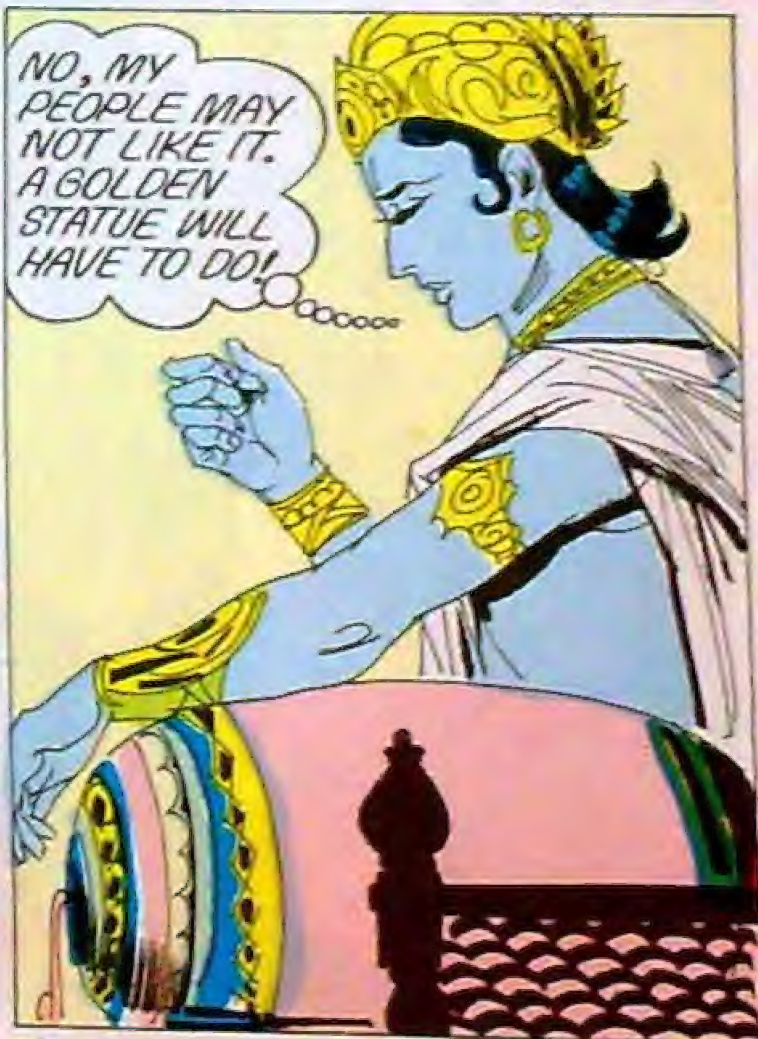


THE YAJNASHALA WAS DECORATED; PREPARATIONS WERE NOW COMPLETE.

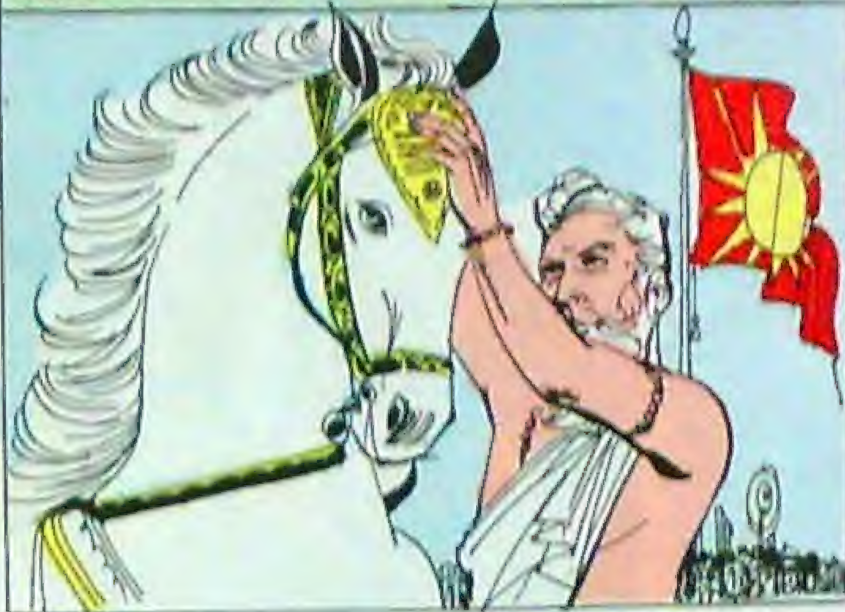

BUT NARADA HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO VISHWAMITRA.
HOW CAN RAMA PERFORM THE YAJNA WITHOUT HIS WIFE SITA?
HE WILL HAVE TO USE A GOLDEN STATUE OF HER!


A WHITE HORSE WITH BLACK EARS WAS GOT READY FOR THE YAJNA.
THE HORSE IS MAGNIFICENT!
EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS. EXCEPT FOR SITA'S ABSENCE.


THE MENTION OF SITA SET RAMA THINKING.
I SHOULD SEND LAXMANA TO LOOK FOR SITA.


NO, MY PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE IT. A GOLDEN STATUE WILL HAVE TO DO!


"SWAHA!"
"SWAHA!!"

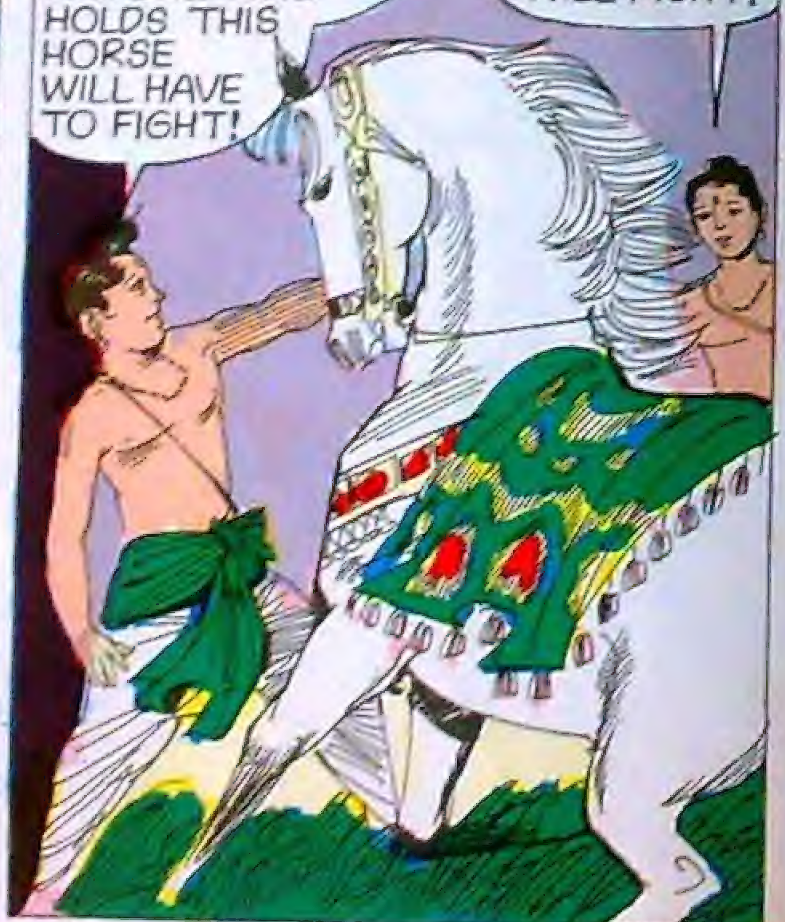


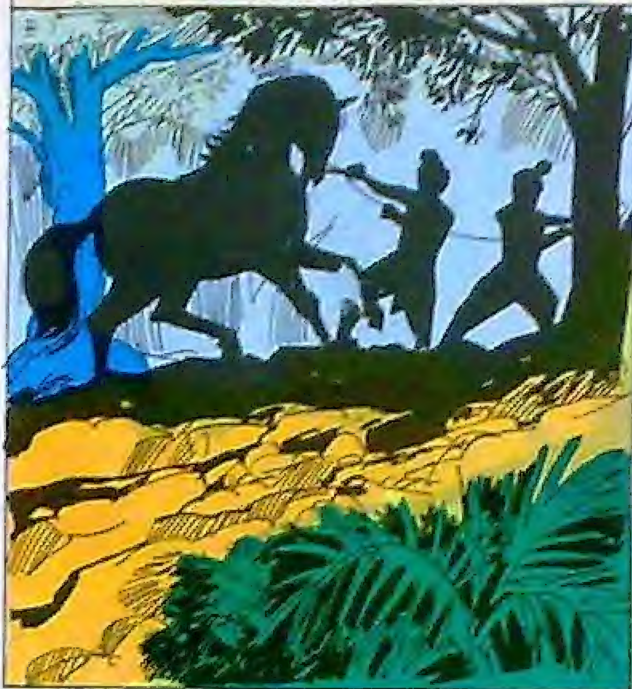
THE HORSE WAS THEN LET LOOSE AND THE ARMY FOLLOWED IT.

AS THE HORSE ENTERED A RULER'S DOMAIN—
WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY MINISTER?
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING. WE ARE TOO WEAK. EVEN RAVANA WAS NO MATCH FOR RAMA.











AND A TERRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWED.

ONE OF THE SOLDIERS HASTENED BACK TO SHATRUGHNA.

SIRE! THOSE TWO CHILDREN ARE IMPOSSIBLE! THEY HAVE MADE FOOLS OF US!

I'LL TEACH THEM HOW TO BEHAVE!



LUV, SHOOT AT THE WHEEL!

H-E-R-E GOES!



AS SHATRUGHNA FELL, RAMA'S ARMY FLED IN DISARRAY.



SOME OF THE SOLDIERS WENT UP TO RAMA.



RAMA WAS DISTURBED.

TWO CHILDREN, AND SO BRAVE! WHO COULD THEY BE? YOU TAKE OVER, LAXMANA. GO AND CAPTURE THOSE BOYS.

I WILL GO AT ONCE!

LAKSHMANA MARCHED WITH THE ARMY.

GLORY TO RAMA!

LAKSHMANA WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.

TWO YOUNG BOYS! UP AGAINST RAMA!

GO AWAY NOW, BOYS!

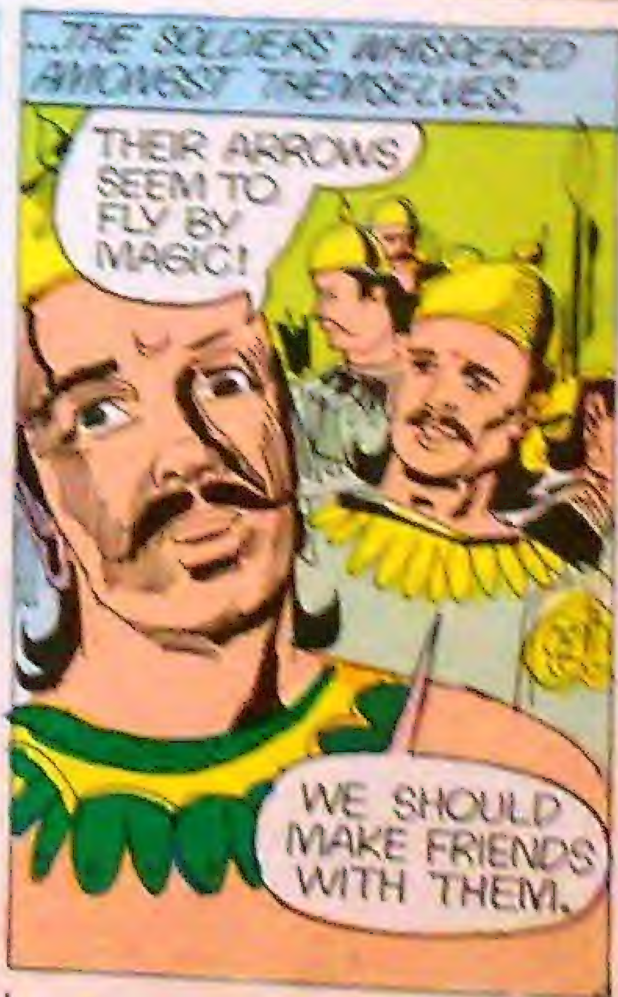
TAKE A LOOK AT HIM FIRST.


LUV, YOU STAY WITH THE HORSE, I'LL DEAL WITH HIM!


DON'T YOU WANT TO LIVE, LAD?
YOU BETTER PRAY FOR YOUR OWN LIFE!
AND KUSH SHOT AN ARROW...


...WHICH TOOK OFF WITH LAXMANA'S HELMET.




...THE SOLDIERS WHISPERED AMONGST THEMSELVES.
THEIR ARROWS SEEM TO FLY BY MAGIC!
WE SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM.

KUSH AND LAXMANA ENGAGED IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.





LUV HAD HIS REVENGE. LAXMANA FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

LAXMANA HAS FALLEN!

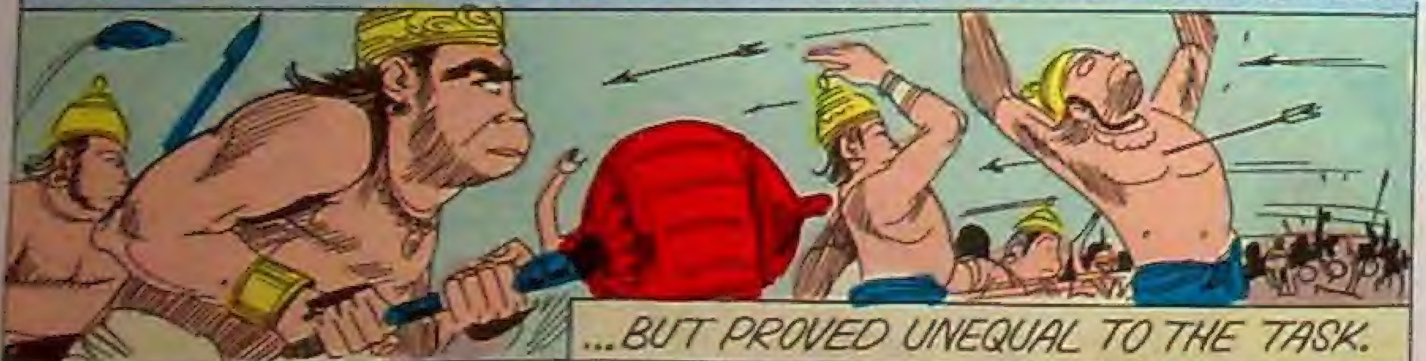





HANUMAN ALSO ACCOMPANIED BHARATA.


LUV AND KUSH EXCHANGED MEANINGFUL LOOKS.
SAY, LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE MONKEYS!
THE SOONER THE BETTER!


INSTANTLY AN ARROW STRUCK HANUMAN'S MACE.
THESE BRATS DESERVE TO BE KILLED!


THE MONKEY FORCES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST LUV AND KUSH.
...BUT PROVED UNEQUAL TO THE TASK.



RAMA LED HIS HUGE FORCES.



THOUGH THE BOYS DID NOT KNOW THIER FATHER, RAMA RECOGNISED THEM. HIS BOW DROPPED FROM HIS HANDS.

YOU ARE SITA'S...

LOOK, HE IS FAINTING! AND JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT WE SAID. LET'S GO AND TAKE CARE OF HIS ARMY.

SOON LUV AND KUSH HAD THE MONKEYS AT THEIR MERCY.



THEY TIED HANUMAN NEAR THE HORSE.



THE MONKEYS DEALT WITH, LUV AND KUSH RETURNED TO RAMA.









AS RAMA RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS VALMIKI BROUGHT LUV AND KUSH TO MEET HIM.

HERE ARE YOUR SONS, RAMA!

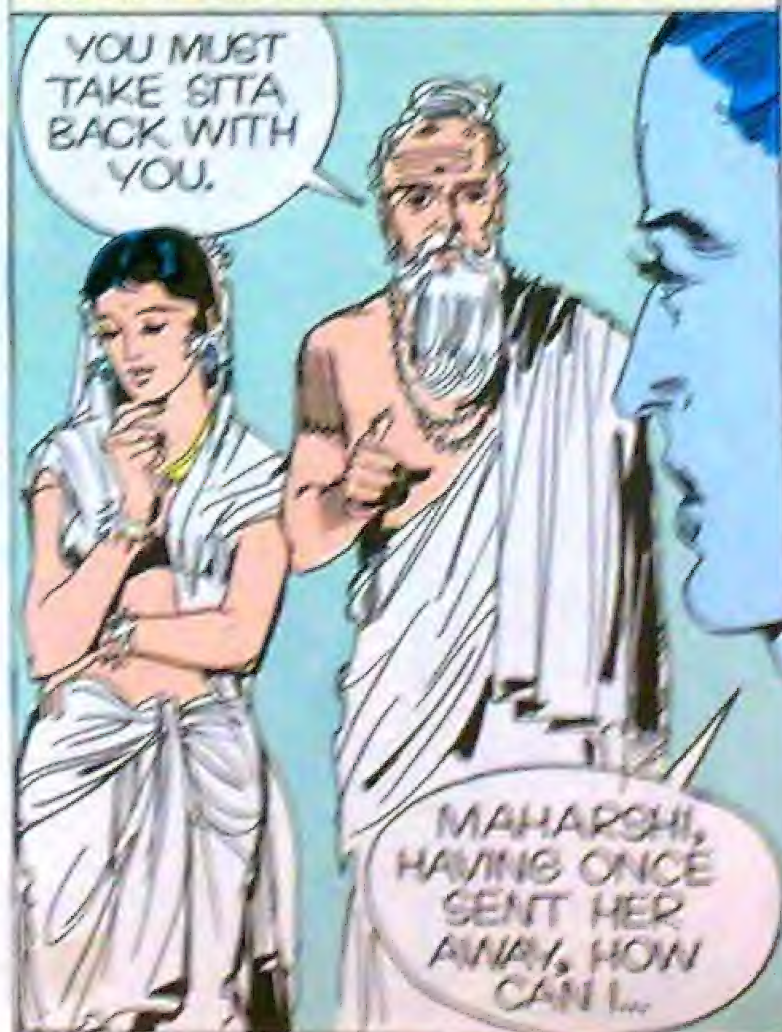
MAHARSHI!

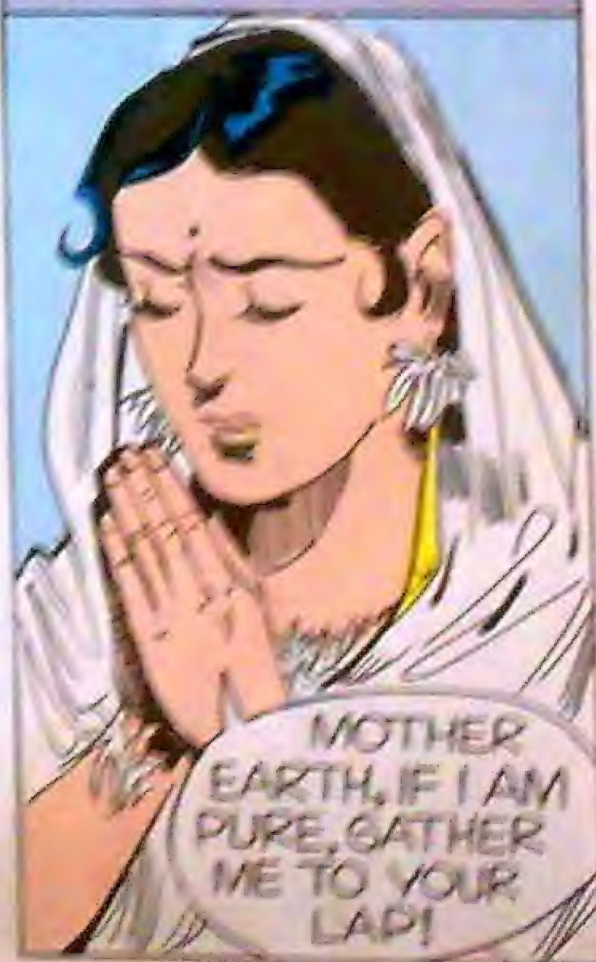
HE DID NOT DIE MOTHER, HE IS ALIVE!

VAIDEHI OF THE RAMAYANA IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR MOTHER, LUV!


HANUMAN WAS STILL TIED UP.
WON'T YOU EVER UNTIE ME, BOYS?


SAY WITH ME, GLORY BE TO RAMA!


VALMIKI BROUGHT SITA FORWARD.
YOU MUST TAKE SITA BACK WITH YOU.
MAHARSHI, HAVING ONCE SENT HER AWAY, HOW CAN I...


SITA COULD NOT BEAR THE HUMILIATION ANY MORE.
MOTHER EARTH, IF I AM PURE, GATHER ME TO YOUR LAP!

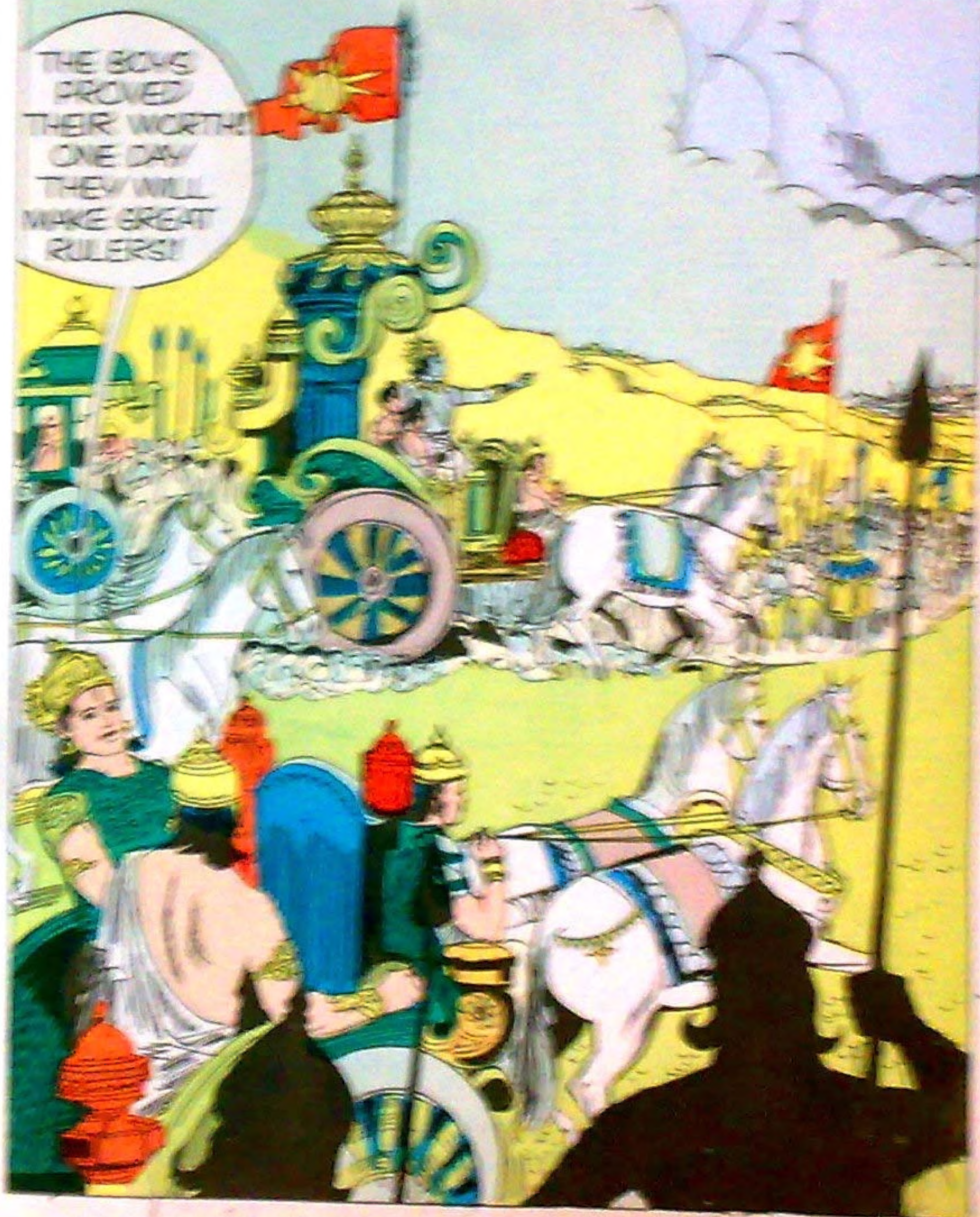




RAMA EMBRACED HIS ANGUISHED SONS.

DO NOT GRIEVE MY SONS, YOUR MOTHER HAS GONE BACK TO HER MOTHER.

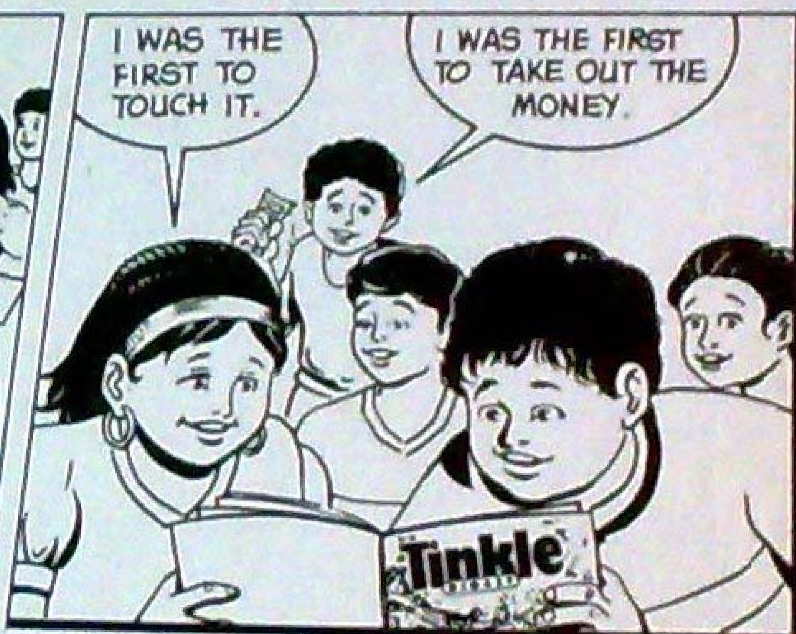
IT WAS SAID, SITA WAS BORN OF THE EARTH. THIS PRO-BABLY WAS TRUE.


WITH HIS SONS AND HIS ARMY, RAMA RETURNED TO AYODHYA.
THE BOYS PROVED THEIR WORTH! ONE DAY THEY WILL MAKE GREAT RULERS!


Tinkle
HEY WHAT'S THAT?


IT'S TINKLE DIGEST.
Tinkle


I SAW IT FIRST. GIVE IT TO ME.
I WAS THE FIRST TO READ THE NAME.


I WAS THE FIRST TO TOUCH IT.
I WAS THE FIRST TO TAKE OUT THE MONEY.
Tinkle


ISBN 81-7508-097-3
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